

B'

IN THE CLAIMS:

BAK 7
when
and

[Amend claim 3 as follows:]

[Amend claim 4 as follows:]

{ Amend claim 5/as follows: }

reading means for receiving an electronically readable
information carrier that includes a programmable memory for
storing a numerical value,

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C2
B2

wherein the programmable device is coupled at least temporarily to the programming means, the programming means comprising the reading means and, at least temporarily, the electronically readable information carrier, and

wherein the programmable device is a timer.--

Amend claim 10 as follows:

C3
B3

~~10~~10. (twice amended) A system for selective purchase and activation of one or several software and/or hardware functions in a programmable device in which the functions are unavailable for use until purchased and activated, comprising:

reading means for receiving an electronically readable information carrier that includes a programmable memory for storing a numerical value; and

programming means for modifying said numerical value in accordance with the previously unavailable functions that have been made available for use by being purchased and activated in the programmable device. ~~Am~~

Cancel claim 11.

Amend claim 12 as follows:

C4

--12. (amended) A method of activating a function of a programmable device having plural functions that are unavailable for use until being selectively purchased and activated, the method comprising the steps of:

C⁴
electronically reading an electronically readable information carrier on which a first value is stored;

coupling the programmable device having the plural functions that are unavailable for use until being selectively purchased and activated to a program capable of selectively purchasing and activating the plural functions;

selecting at least one of the plural functions to be made available;

making available and activating the selected function;

coupling the program to the information carrier; and

purchasing the activated function by debiting from the first value a second value of the activated function.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended at page 5 in response to the criticisms in the Official Action to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. The plural modules shown in Figure 2 are explained in the last paragraph on page 5, when read in conjunction with page 7, lines 8-13. The modules contain the functions that are to be purchased and activated.

The indication that claim 5 includes patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claim 5 has been amended into independent form by adding the subject matter of claims 1 and 4 thereto.